CHAMBER OF DARKNESS
15¢
5
JUNE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
CHAMBER OF DARKNESS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
TALES TO BLAST YOUR BRAIN!
NO, NNOOO! HE'S AFTER ME--- STALKING ME--- AND THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
...AND FEAR SHALL FOLLOW!

FLYING A U-2 PLANE OVER RED CHINA WAS MORE THAN A HAZARDOUS MISSION FOR THIS MAN! FOR, THE WORST HAD HAPPENED! SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG-- THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE TIME TO CORRECT HIS SITUATION! IN ONE CHAOTIC MOMENT, HE FOUGHT AND FELL AND THE STORM SWEPT TRIUMPHANTLY ACROSS THE SPOT WHERE HE STRUCK! --THUS, WE BEGIN WITH THE END-- AND MOVE ON TO STRANGER EVENTS-- AS A MAN SHALL FLEE...
...AND FEAR SHALL FOLLOW!
STAN LEE EDITOR
JACK KIRBY WRITER & ARTIST
JOHN VERPOORTEN, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1970, by Magazine Management Co., Inc. Marvel Comics Group. All rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 5, June, 1970 issue. Price 15¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate $2.00 and $2.50 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions $3.75.

I WAS ROUSED WITH A START--PERHAPS BY THE SHRIEKING WIND--OR THE LASH OF THE RAIN...

ALL ABOUT ME WAS THE ANGRY VOICE OF THE STORM --"I GOT YOU!" IT ROARED, "YOU FLEW TOO LOW--AND I GOT YOU--!"

IT WAS TRUE, ALL RIGHT! WHEN I ROSE TO MY FEET I SAW THE WRECKAGE--A TECHNOLOGICAL WONDER, SEARED, AND TWISTED AND SCATTERED LIKE JUNK--

BUT, I WAS INTACT! NOTHING SEEMED BROKEN--I COULD MOVE WITHOUT PAIN...

I MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN CLEAR WHEN THE PLANE HIT! TALK ABOUT BREAKS!

I'LL NEED ANOTHER MIRACLE TO GET OUT OF THIS NEW FIX!

MY SITUATION FILLED ME WITH FEAR! U-2 PILOTS ARE NOT KNOWN TO DRAW CHEERS IN MAO COUNTRY!! THEN, I SAW HIM--SILHOUETTED BY THE LIGHTNING!

MY FIRST WELCOMER! GOT TO START MOVING BEFORE HE CALLS THE LOCAL POSSE!

STOP! DON'T LEAVE! I'VE COME FOR YOU!

HE SHOUTED IN ENGLISH AND HIS MEANING WAS CLEAR! BUT I DIDN'T GET A SECOND CHANCE FOR LIFE--TO WASTE IT IN SOME RED PRISON! I TOOK OFF--!

HE'S FOLLOWING! I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO SHAKE HIM OFF MY TRAIL!

MY PISTOL--I DIDN'T SEARCH FOR IT--TOO LATE NOW--

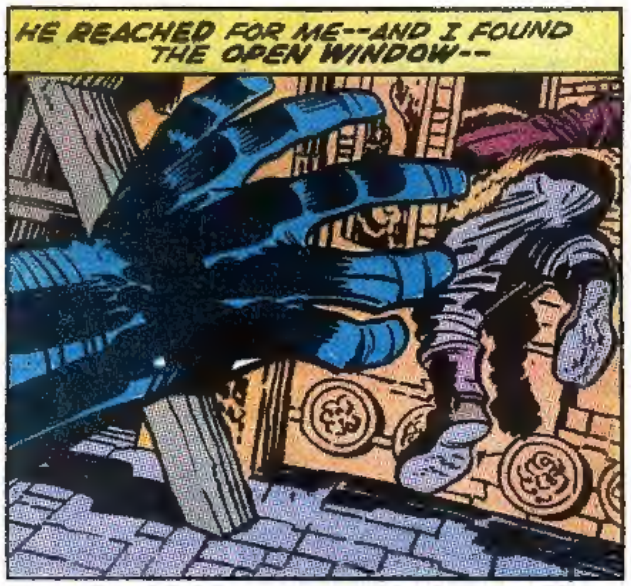
I RAN FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE MILES! THEN I FOUND THE TOWN--THE STORM HAD DRIVEN EVERYONE INDOORS, AND I RAN DOWN THE EMPTY STREETS...

THIS IS RISKY--BUT I MAY FIND COVER UNTIL THAT GUY LOSES MY SCENT!

THEN, I STEPPED HARD ON THE BRAKES--
ALMOST ROUNDING A CORNER WHERE A
BAYONET WAITED--GLEAMING--DEADLY--

I WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN A LONE SENTRY
AND MY PURSUER! HE WAS DRAWING
CLOSER--CLOSER, UNTIL
I COULD SEE HIM--

DON'T BE A FOOL--
THERE'S NO PLACE
FOR YOU TO RUN--
COME WITH
ME--!
YOU'LL NEED A
GUN TO FORCE
ME--AND YOU
HAVEN'T GOT ONE!


HE REACHED FOR ME--AND I FOUND
THE OPEN WINDOW--

I LEAPED INTO THE
DARKNESS OF A STRANGE
BUILDING--A TEMPLE OF
SORTS! MY FINGERS
TOUCHED WALL CARVINGS
AS I FLED DOWN THE
CORRIDORS--

IT WAS LIKE PLUNGING
DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO
A GROWING NIGHTMARE!
SUDDENLY, THERE WAS
LIGHT--AND BEHIND ME--

THAT FACE!
THAT EVIL
FACE!--
BUT IT'S
ONLY A
PAINTED
IDOL!
3

WHAT FROZE ME NEXT WERE TWO HEADS-- FLOATING TOWARD ME FROM THE DARKNESS--
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING, BROTHER?
YES--BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WIND!

THEY WERE MONKS--AND THEY DIDN'T SEE ME--I'D SOMEHOW MOVED FAST ENOUGH TO ELUDE DISCOVERY!

I COULD HEAR MY HEART-- POUNDING FASTER--LOUDER --LIKE APPROACHING FOOT-STEPS--THEN SILENCE-- AND A STRANGE TENSION! I FOUGHT DOWN MY FEAR --AND DARED TO TURN--

HE WAS THERE! HE'D TRACKED ME DOWN!
YOURS IS A FRUITLESS FLIGHT! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME!
STAY BACK! I WARN YOU--DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

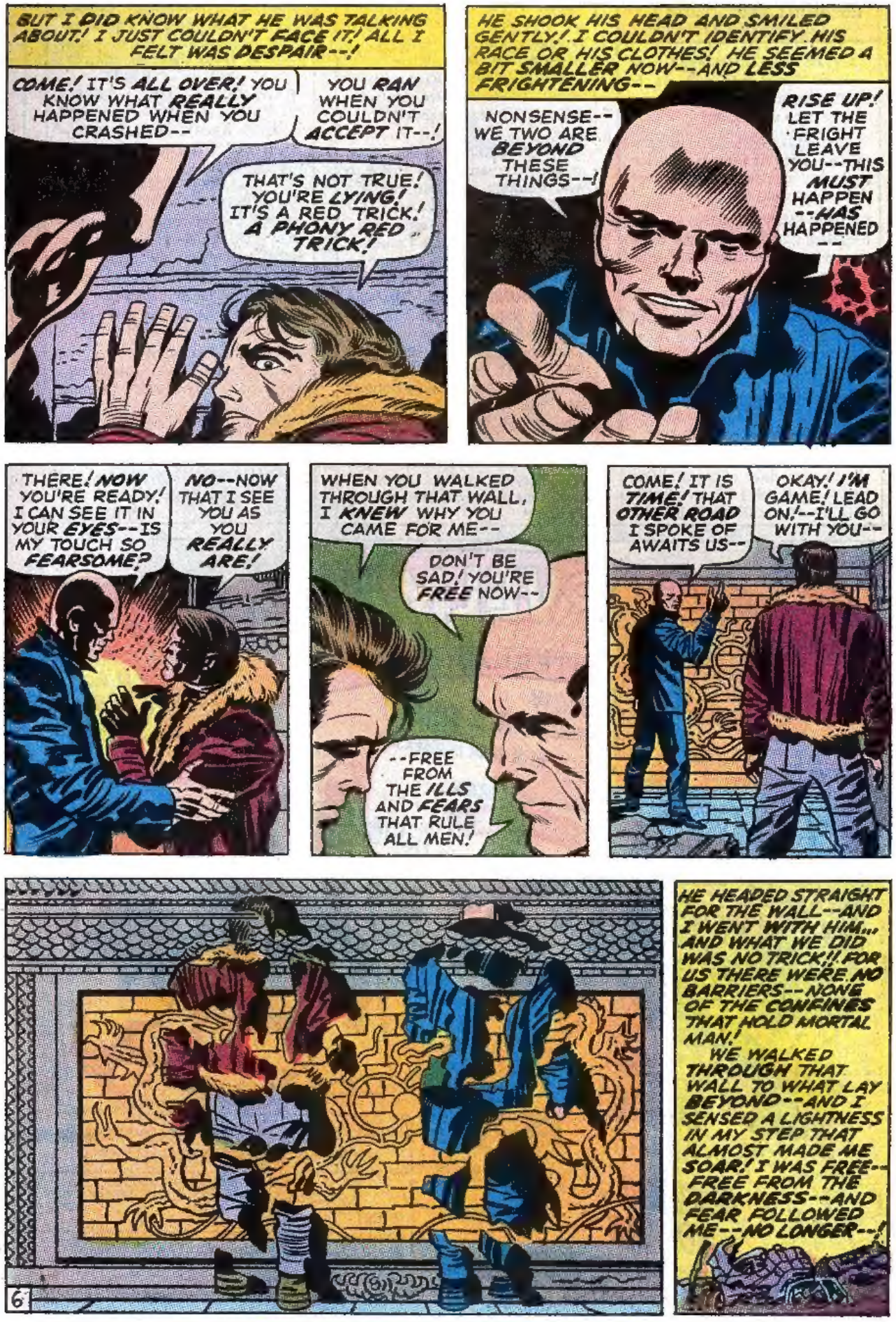
THE VERY SIGHT OF HIM NOW FRIGHTENED ME--DROVE ME TO RUN--AND I RAN!
WHY PROLONG YOUR FATE? COME BACK!
NO! NO! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME-- NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT!

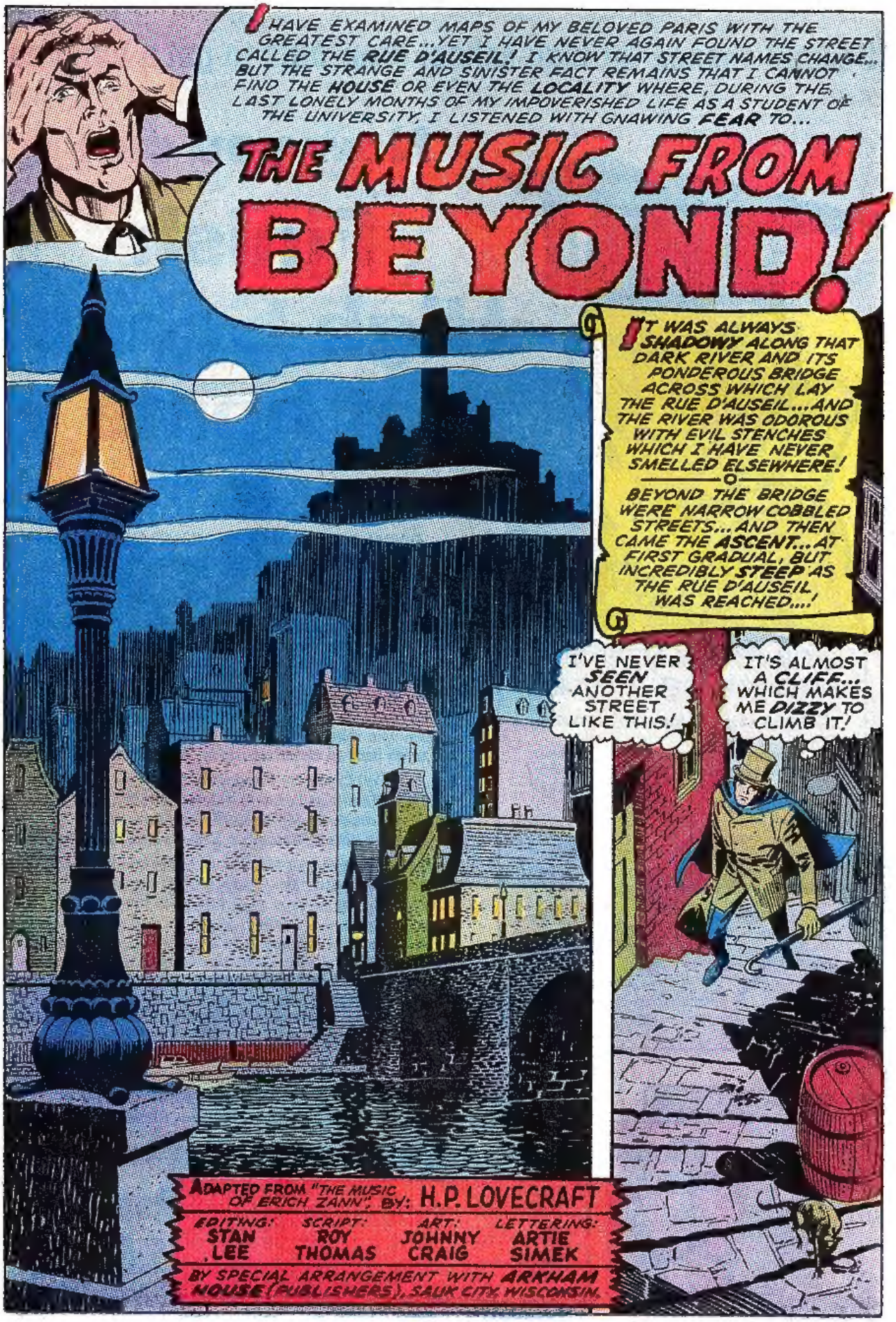
MY ORIGINAL FEAR WAS NOW SOMETHING LARGER, MORE FOREBODING IN NATURE--LURKING IN HIS GIANT, STALKING SHADOW--!
--MUST FIND A HIDING PLACE-- STRONG-- SECURE-- TO KEEP HIM OUT!

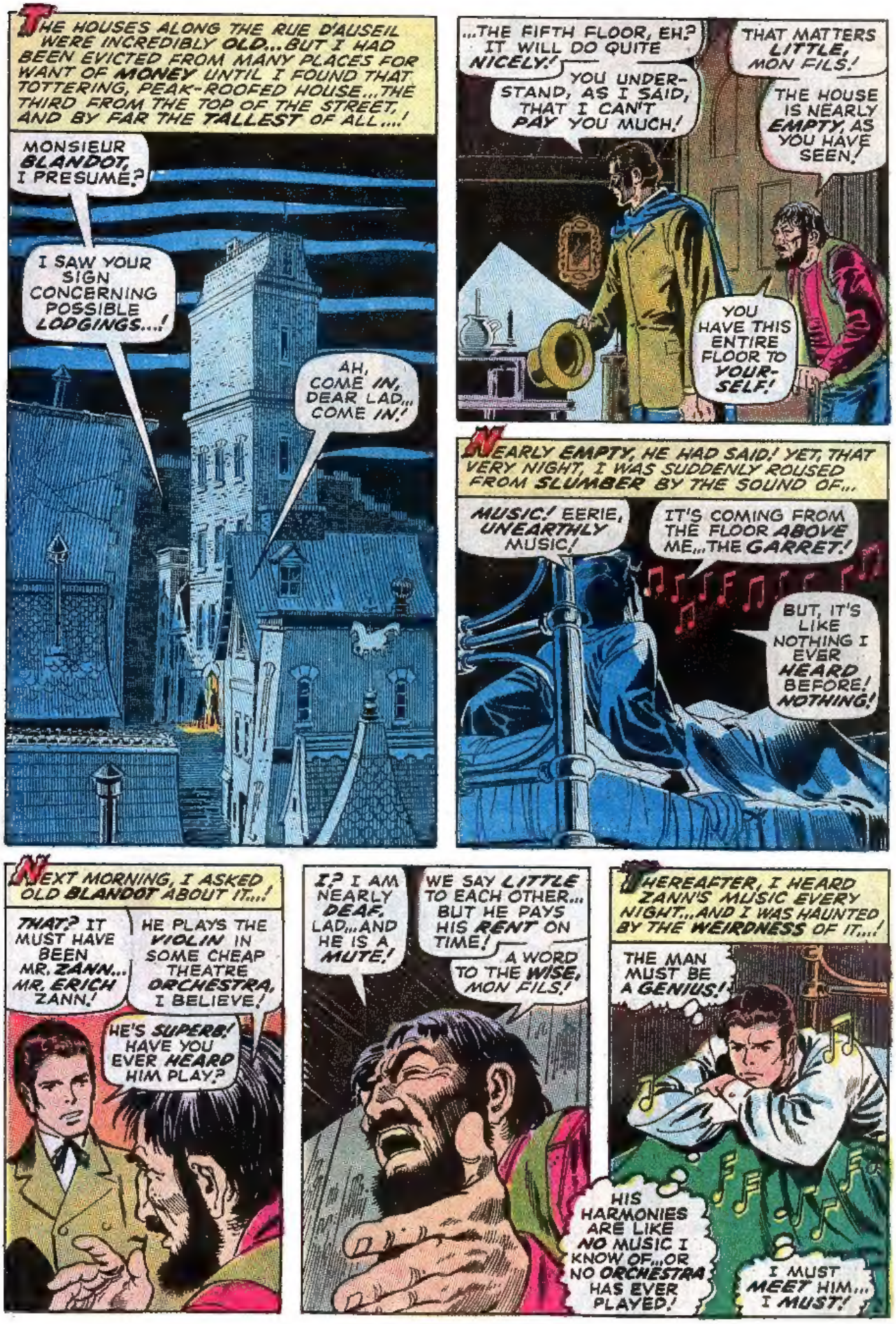
YOU HAVE FOUND A THICK, STONE CHAMBER, BUT IT WILL NOT KEEP ME OUT!
THIS CAN KEEP AN ARMY OUT!

I SECURED THE STRONG BOLT--AND BREATHED FREELY FOR THE FRACTION OF A SECOND--
4

HIS VOICE FOLLOWED ME INSIDE--
I MUST COME IN, YOU KNOW! I MUST TAKE YOU--
THAT'LL BE A NEAT TRICK, MISTER!
YOU'D HAVE TO WALK THROUGH THE WALL TO GET ME!
AND WHILE YOU TRY THAT, I'LL JUST STAY HERE--UNTIL YOU GO AWAY!
THEN, HE SAID SOMETHING WHICH TURNED MY BLOOD TO ICE--
WALLS DO NOT EXIST FOR ME! ALL THE TRAPS OF THIS WORLD ARE AS FADING MIST--!
THE FINGER TIPS CAME THROUGH FIRST--EMERGING WITH THE REST OF THE HAND! I TRIED TO CRY OUT--BUT COULDN'T MAKE IT!
THERE WAS NO STOPPING HIM--HE WAS SOMETHING RELENTLESS--AND INEVITABLE--
AND SO YOU SEE--
THE CHASE MUST END! --AND NOT JUST FOR YOU ALONE--
THIS ROAD MUST END FOR ALL SUCH AS YOU!
NOW--COME WE MUST DEPART!
I WON'T--! THIS-- THIS IS MADNESS--
NOT MADNESS, MY FRIEND--MERELY CONFUSION... IT HAPPENS THIS WAY, SOME TIMES--
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? GO AWAY! GO AWAY!
5

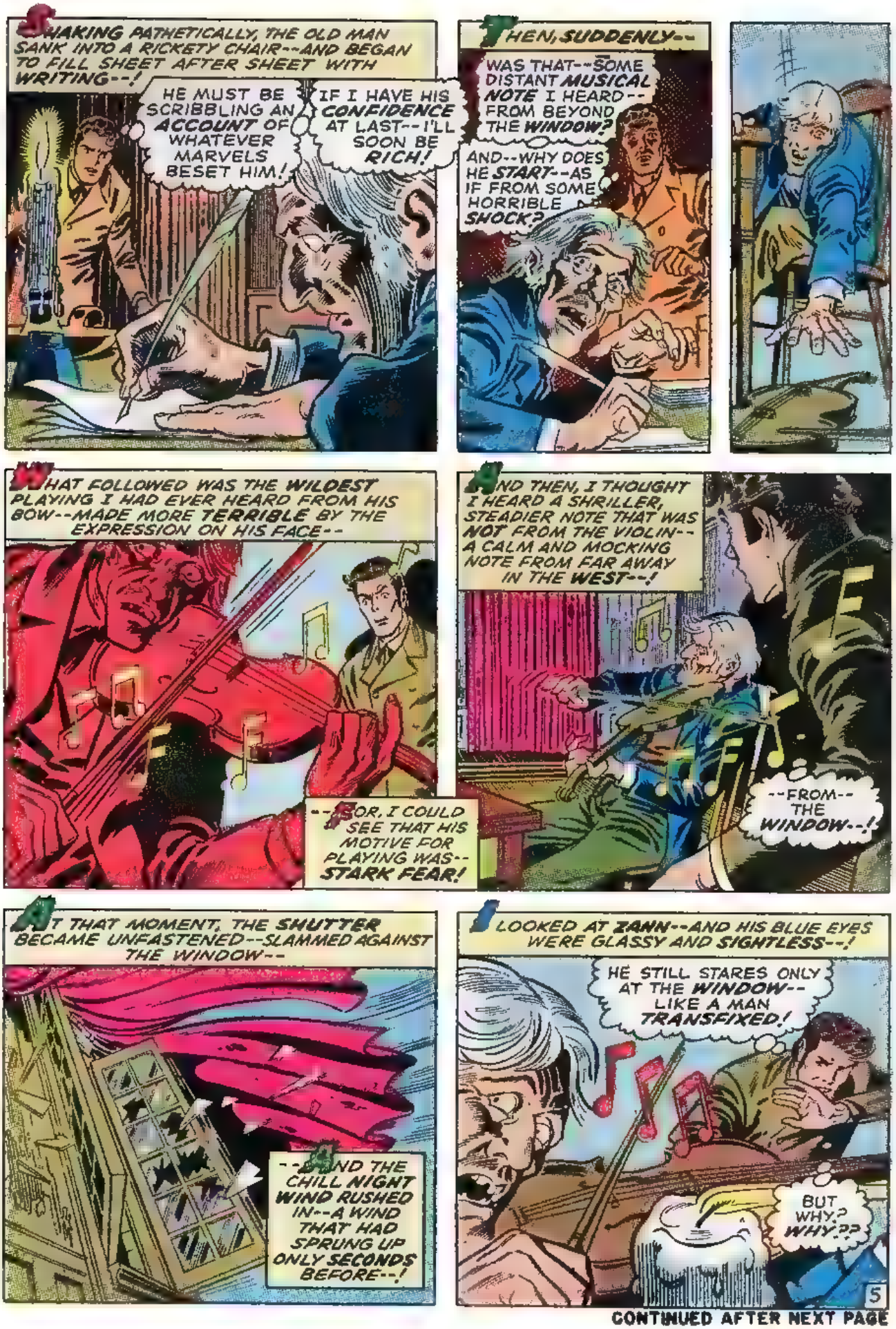

BUT I DID KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT! I JUST COULDN'T FACE IT! ALL I FELT WAS DESPAIR--!
COME! IT'S ALL OVER! YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WHEN YOU CRASHED--
YOU RAN WHEN YOU COULDN'T ACCEPT IT--!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU'RE LYING! IT'S A RED TRICK! A PHONY RED TRICK!
HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SMILED GENTLY.! I COULDN'T IDENTIFY HIS RACE OR HIS CLOTHES! HE SEEMED A BIT SMALLER NOW--AND LESS FRIGHTENING--
NONSENSE-- WE TWO ARE BEYOND THESE THINGS--!
RISE UP! LET THE FRIGHT LEAVE YOU--THIS MUST HAPPEN --HAS HAPPENED --
THERE! NOW YOU'RE READY! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES--IS MY TOUCH SO FEARSOME?
NO--NOW THAT I SEE YOU AS YOU REALLY ARE!
WHEN YOU WALKED THROUGH THAT WALL, I KNEW WHY YOU CAME FOR ME--
DON'T BE SAD! YOU'RE FREE NOW--
--FREE FROM THE ILLS AND FEARS THAT RULE ALL MEN!
COME! IT IS TIME! THAT OTHER ROAD I SPOKE OF AWAITS US--
OKAY! I'M GAME! LEAD ON!--I'LL GO WITH YOU--
HE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE WALL--AND I WENT WITH HIM... AND WHAT WE DID WAS NO TRICK!! FOR US THERE WERE NO BARRIERS--NONE OF THE CONFINES THAT HOLD MORTAL MAN!
WE WALKED THROUGH THAT WALL TO WHAT LAY BEYOND--AND I SENSED A LIGHTNESS IN MY STEP THAT ALMOST MADE ME SOAR! I WAS FREE-- FREE FROM THE DARKNESS--AND FEAR FOLLOWED ME--NO LONGER--!
6


I HAVE EXAMINED MAPS OF MY BELOVED PARIS WITH THE GREATEST CARE...YET I HAVE NEVER AGAIN FOUND THE STREET CALLED THE RUE D'AUSEIL! I KNOW THAT STREET NAMES CHANGE... BUT THE STRANGE AND SINISTER FACT REMAINS THAT I CANNOT FIND THE HOUSE OR EVEN THE LOCALITY WHERE, DURING THE LAST LONELY MONTHS OF MY IMPOVERISHED LIFE AS A STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY, I LISTENED WITH GNAWING FEAR TO...
THE MUSIC FROM BEYOND!
IT WAS ALWAYS SHADOWY ALONG THAT DARK RIVER AND ITS PONDEROUS BRIDGE ACROSS WHICH LAY THE RUE D'AUSEIL...AND THE RIVER WAS ODOROUS WITH EVIL STENCHES WHICH I HAVE NEVER SMELLED ELSEWHERE!
BEYOND THE BRIDGE WERE NARROW COBBLED STREETS... AND THEN CAME THE ASCENT... AT FIRST GRADUAL, BUT INCREDIBLY STEEP AS THE RUE D'AUSEIL WAS REACHED....!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER STREET LIKE THIS!
IT'S ALMOST A CLIFF... WHICH MAKES ME DIZZY TO CLIMB IT!
ADAPTED FROM "THE MUSIC OF ERICH ZANN" BY: H.P. LOVECRAFT
EDITING: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: ROY THOMAS
ART: JOHNNY CRAIG
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ARKHAM HOUSE (PUBLISHERS), SAUK CITY, WISCONSIN.

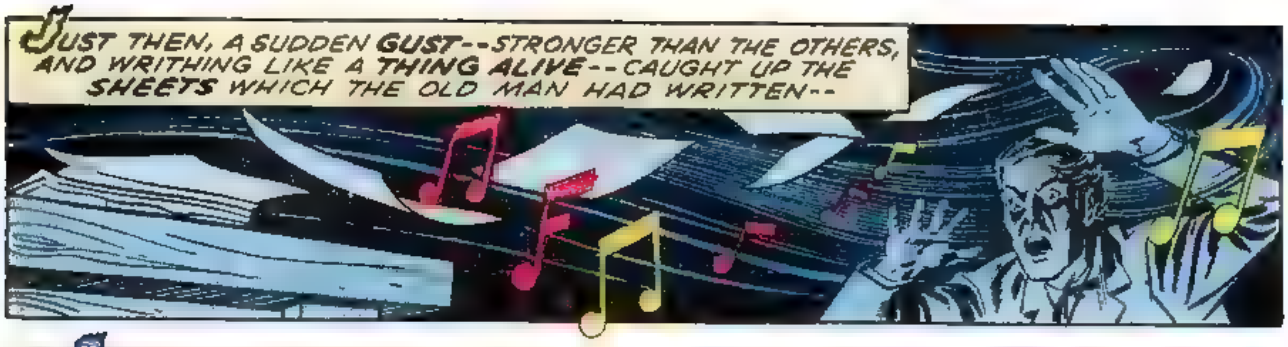

THE HOUSES ALONG THE RUE D'AUSEIL WERE INCREDIBLY OLD...BUT I HAD BEEN EVICTED FROM MANY PLACES FOR WANT OF MONEY UNTIL I FOUND THAT TOTTERING, PEAK-ROOFED HOUSE...THE THIRD FROM THE TOP OF THE STREET, AND BY FAR THE TALLEST OF ALL....!
MONSIEUR BLANDOT, I PRESUME?
I SAW YOUR SIGN CONCERNING POSSIBLE LODGINGS...!
AH, COME IN, DEAR LAD... COME IN!
...THE FIFTH FLOOR, EH? IT WILL DO QUITE NICELY!
YOU UNDERSTAND, AS I SAID, THAT I CAN'T PAY YOU MUCH!
THAT MATTERS LITTLE, MON FILS!
THE HOUSE IS NEARLY EMPTY, AS YOU HAVE SEEN!
YOU HAVE THIS ENTIRE FLOOR TO YOURSELF!
NEARLY EMPTY, HE HAD SAID! YET, THAT VERY NIGHT, I WAS SUDDENLY ROUSED FROM SLUMBER BY THE SOUND OF...
MUSIC! EERIE, UNEARTHLY MUSIC!
IT'S COMING FROM THE FLOOR ABOVE ME...THE GARRET!
BUT, IT'S LIKE NOTHING I EVER HEARD BEFORE! NOTHING!
NEXT MORNING, I ASKED OLD BLANDOT ABOUT IT....!
THAT? IT MUST HAVE BEEN MR. ZANN... MR. ERICH ZANN!
HE PLAYS THE VIOLIN IN SOME CHEAP THEATRE ORCHESTRA, I BELIEVE!
HE'S SUPERB! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD HIM PLAY?
I? I AM NEARLY DEAF, LAD...AND HE IS A MUTE!
WE SAY LITTLE TO EACH OTHER... BUT HE PAYS HIS RENT ON TIME!
A WORD TO THE WISE, MON FILS!
THEREAFTER, I HEARD ZANN'S MUSIC EVERY NIGHT...AND I WAS HAUNTED BY THE WEIRDNESS OF IT....!
THE MAN MUST BE A GENIUS!
HIS HARMONIES ARE LIKE NO MUSIC I KNOW OF...OR NO ORCHESTRA HAS EVER PLAYED!
I MUST MEET HIM... I MUST!

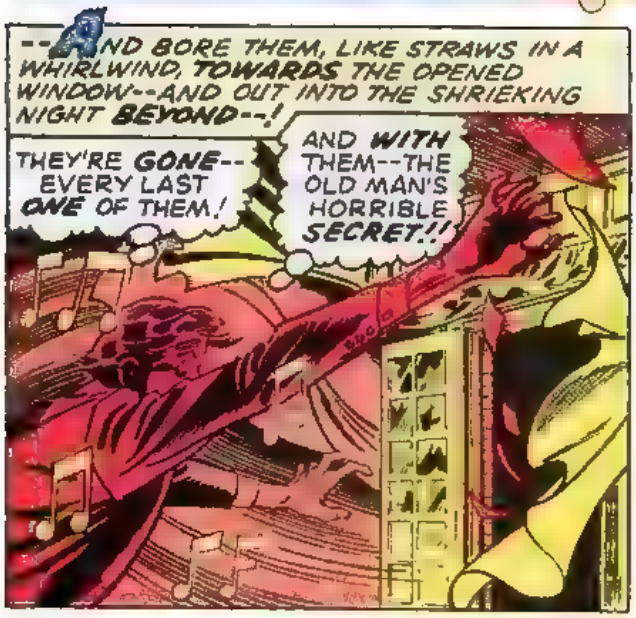
AND THUS, A FEW EVENINGS LATER...
MONSIEUR ZANN? I LIVE BELOW YOU... AND WONDER IF I COULD SIT WITH YOU WHILE YOU PLAY YOUR VIOLIN!?
I KNOW YOU CAN'T SPEAK...
BUT IF YOU'D JUST NOD YOUR ASSENT...!
AT MY FIRST WORDS, THE OLD MAN SEEMED BOTH ANGRY...
...AND SOMEHOW STRANGELY FRIGHTENED...
BUT THEN, HE GRUDGINGLY MOTIONED FOR ME TO FOLLOW HIM UP THE DARK, CREAKING STAIRS...!
HE'S NOT A VERY SOCIABLE OLD FELLOW!
STILL, HE'S A COMPOSER OF GENIUS ...AND IF HE WOULD LET ME MANAGE HIM, MY FORTUNE WOULD BE MADE!
IN HIS LOFTY, BUT ILL-FURNISHED GARRET, ERICH ZANN DREW FORTH HIS VIOLIN AND BEGAN...
HE KEEPS HIS LONE WINDOW CURTAIN! HOW ABSURD...FOR, THE VIEW OF THE CITY MUST BE TRULY MAGNIFIQUE!
AND THAT MUSIC HE'S PLAYING... IT DOESN'T CONTAIN ANY OF THE WEIRD NOTES I'VE HEARD!
PARDON, MONSIEUR... I DO NOT MEAN TO INTERRUPT...
BUT COULD YOU PLAY SOME OF THE STRAINS I OVERHEARD LAST NIGHT?
I WILL TRY TO WHISTLE THEM FOR YOU, AS BEST I CAN...!
EH? HE'S MOTIONING ME NOT TO WHISTLE... BUT WHY...?
HURRIEDLY, NERVOUSLY, MY RELUCTANT HOST SCRIBBED ME A NOTE...!
My dear young sir: Please forgive my seeming rudeness, but I am a lonely and afflicted old man. Still, I must ask you to leave--and to take a lower room where my music will not disturb you. I cannot bear to have my harmonies heard by other ears! Erich Zann
JUST THEN, THERE CAME A SLIGHT SOUND FROM THE WINDOW...
JUST THE SHUTTER RATTLING IN THE NIGHT WIND, I'M SURE!
YET WHY DID I START, ALMOST AS MUCH AS ZANN?
YES, YES, I'M GOING OLD MAN!
I WON'T DISTURB YOU AGAIN!
3
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

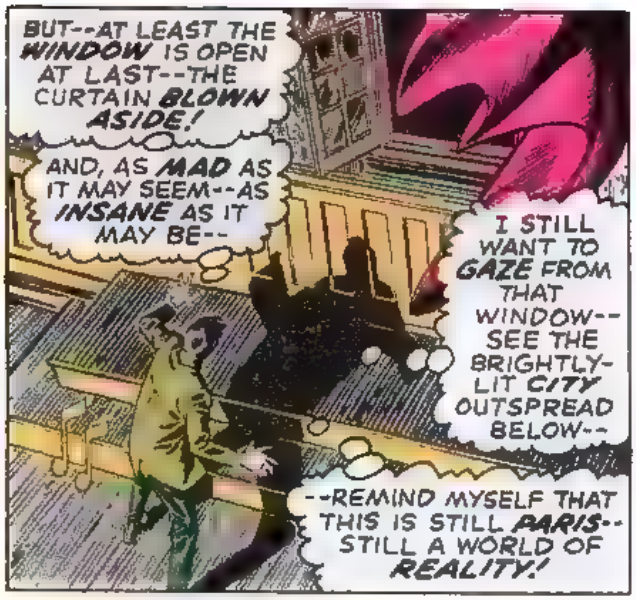
THE NEXT DAY, BLANDOT GAVE ME A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR! THERE WAS NO ONE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR! BUT STILL THE ATTIC ROOM HELD AN ODD FASCINATION FOR ME...!
SOMEHOW, JUST ONCE, I INTEND TO LOOK OUT THAT WINDOW...
...GAZE DOWN AT THE GLITTERING ROOFS AND SPIRES...THE SCENE OF ALL PARIS SPREAD BENEATH ME!
ONCE, I WENT UP THE GARRET DURING THEATRE HOURS, WHEN ZANN WAS AWAY, BUT...
LOCKED!
STILL, ON FOLLOWING NIGHTS, I GREW BOLD ENOUGH TO SIT ON THE RICKETY STAIRS OUTSIDE HIS DOOR...AND LISTEN TO SOUNDS WHICH FILLED ME WITH AN UNDEFINABLE DREAD...!
EACH WEEK...EACH NIGHT...HIS PLAYING GROWS WILDER!
AND SOMETIMES...IT SOUNDS NOT LIKE ONE LONE INSTRUMENT ...BUT A WHOLE SYMPHONY!
BUT, I'LL NEVER SOLVE THE MYSTERY THAT HAUNTS ME!
FOR, THE OLD MAN EVEN SHUNS ME WHEN WE PASS!
THEN, ONE NIGHT, I HEARD THE VIOLIN SWELL INTO A BABEL OF SOUND--AND ABOVE THAT SOUND, AN INARTICULATE CRY--!
IT'S--HE!!
OPEN UP, ZANN! OPEN THE DOOR, I SAY!
BOM!
BOM!
DO YOU HEAR ME, OLD MAN? OPEN THE DOOR!!
FROM WITHIN, I HEARD ZANN STUMBLING ABOUT--CLOSING BOTH SHUTTER AND SASH--AND THEN--
WHAT'S WRONG, MAN? YOU'RE HALF MAD WITH FEAR!
WHAT HAPPENED IN HERE??
4


SHAKING PATHETICALLY, THE OLD MAN SANK INTO A RICKETY CHAIR--AND BEGAN TO FILL SHEET AFTER SHEET WITH WRITING--!
HE MUST BE SCRIBBLING AN ACCOUNT OF WHATEVER MARVELS BESET HIM!
IF I HAVE HIS CONFIDENCE AT LAST--I'LL SOON BE RICH!
THEN, SUDDENLY--
WAS THAT--SOME DISTANT MUSICAL NOTE I HEARD--FROM BEYOND THE WINDOW?
AND--WHY DOES HE START--AS IF FROM SOME HORRIBLE SHOCK?
WHAT FOLLOWED WAS THE WILDEST PLAYING I HAD EVER HEARD FROM HIS BOW--MADE MORE TERRIBLE BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE--
--FOR, I COULD SEE THAT HIS MOTIVE FOR PLAYING WAS--STARK FEAR!
AND THEN, I THOUGHT I HEARD A SHRILLER, STEADIER NOTE THAT WAS NOT FROM THE VIOLIN--A CALM AND MOCKING NOTE FROM FAR AWAY IN THE WEST--!
--FROM--THE WINDOW--!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE SHUTTER BECAME UNFASTENED--SLAMMED AGAINST THE WINDOW--
--AND THE CHILL NIGHT WIND RUSHED IN--A WIND THAT HAD SPRUNG UP ONLY SECONDS BEFORE--!
I LOOKED AT ZANN--AND HIS BLUE EYES WERE GLASSY AND SIGHTLESS--!
HE STILL STARES ONLY AT THE WINDOW--LIKE A MAN TRANSFIXED!
BUT WHY? WHY??
5

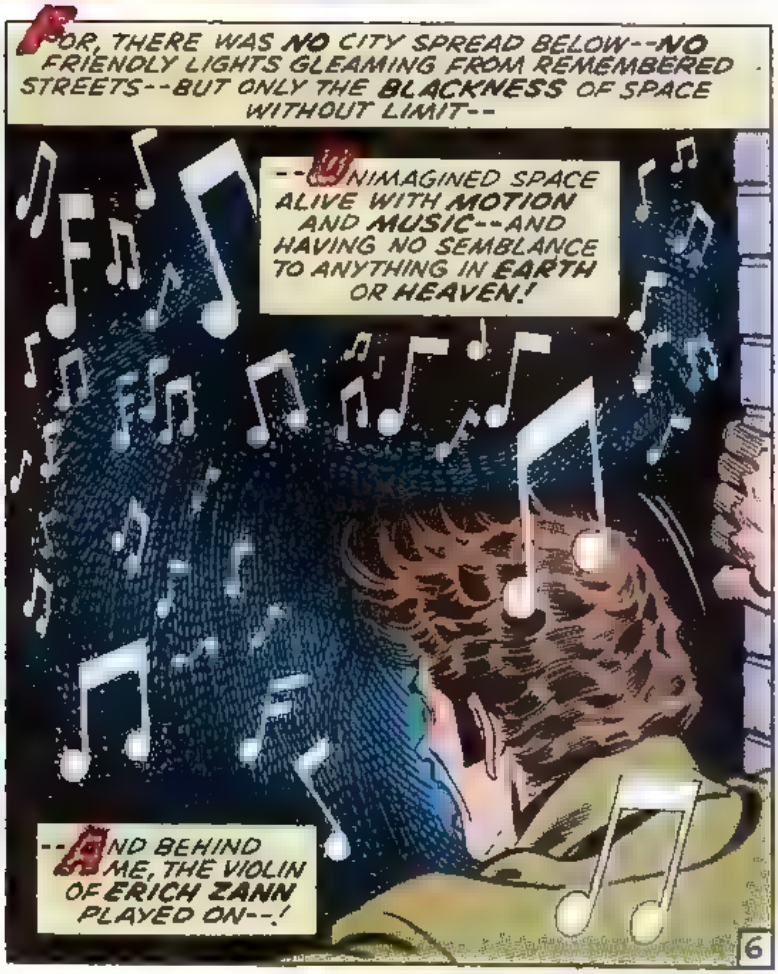
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


JUST THEN, A SUDDEN GUST--STRONGER THAN THE OTHERS, AND WRITHING LIKE A THING ALIVE--CAUGHT UP THE SHEETS WHICH THE OLD MAN HAD WRITTEN--

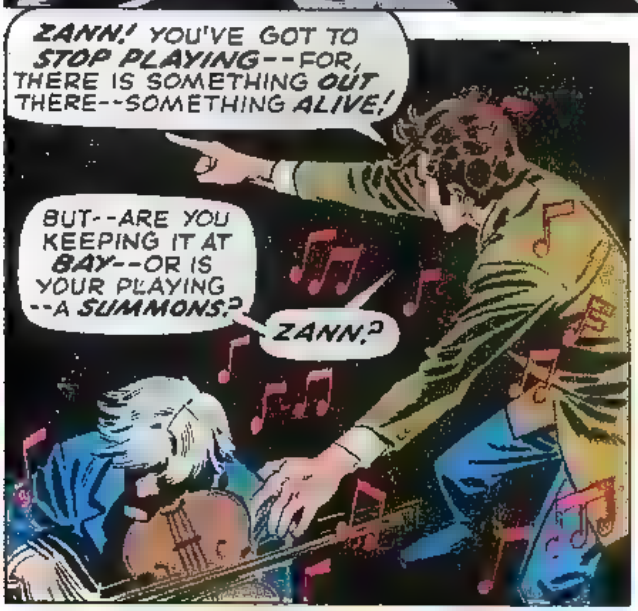

--AND BORE THEM, LIKE STRAWS IN A WHIRLWIND, TOWARDS THE OPENED WINDOW--AND OUT INTO THE SHRIEKING NIGHT BEYOND--!
THEY'RE GONE--EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
AND WITH THEM--THE OLD MAN'S HORRIBLE SECRET!!

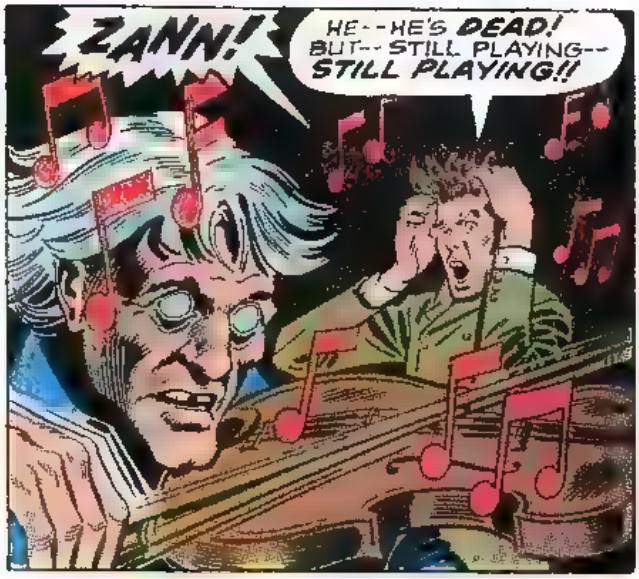

BUT--AT LEAST THE WINDOW IS OPEN AT LAST--THE CURTAIN BLOWN ASIDE!
AND, AS MAD AS IT MAY SEEM--AS INSANE AS IT MAY BE--
I STILL WANT TO GAZE FROM THAT WINDOW--SEE THE BRIGHTLY-LIT CITY OUTSPREAD BELOW--
--REMIND MYSELF THAT THIS IS STILL PARIS--STILL A WORLD OF REALITY!

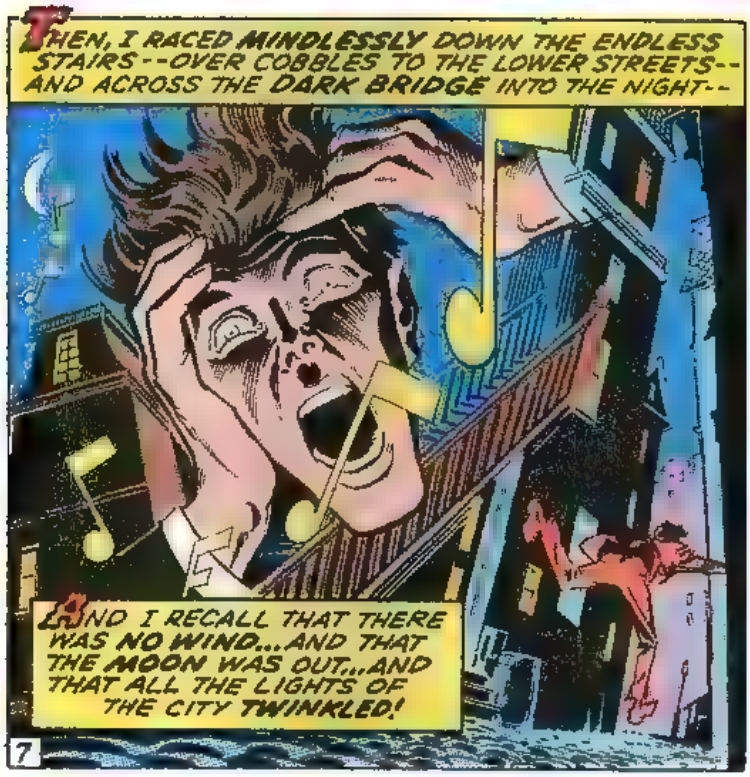
YET, AS I LOOKED FROM THAT HIGHEST OF ALL GABLE WINDOWS--LOOKED WHILE THE INSANE VIOLIN HOWLED WITH THE NIGHT WIND--I SAW--
GOOD LORD!
NO! NOOOO!!


FOR, THERE WAS NO CITY SPREAD BELOW--NO FRIENDLY LIGHTS GLEAMING FROM REMEMBERED STREETS--BUT ONLY THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE WITHOUT LIMIT--
--UNIMAGINED SPACE ALIVE WITH MOTION AND MUSIC--AND HAVING NO SEMBLANCE TO ANYTHING IN EARTH OR HEAVEN!
--AND BEHIND ME, THE VIOLIN OF ERICH ZANN PLAYED ON--!

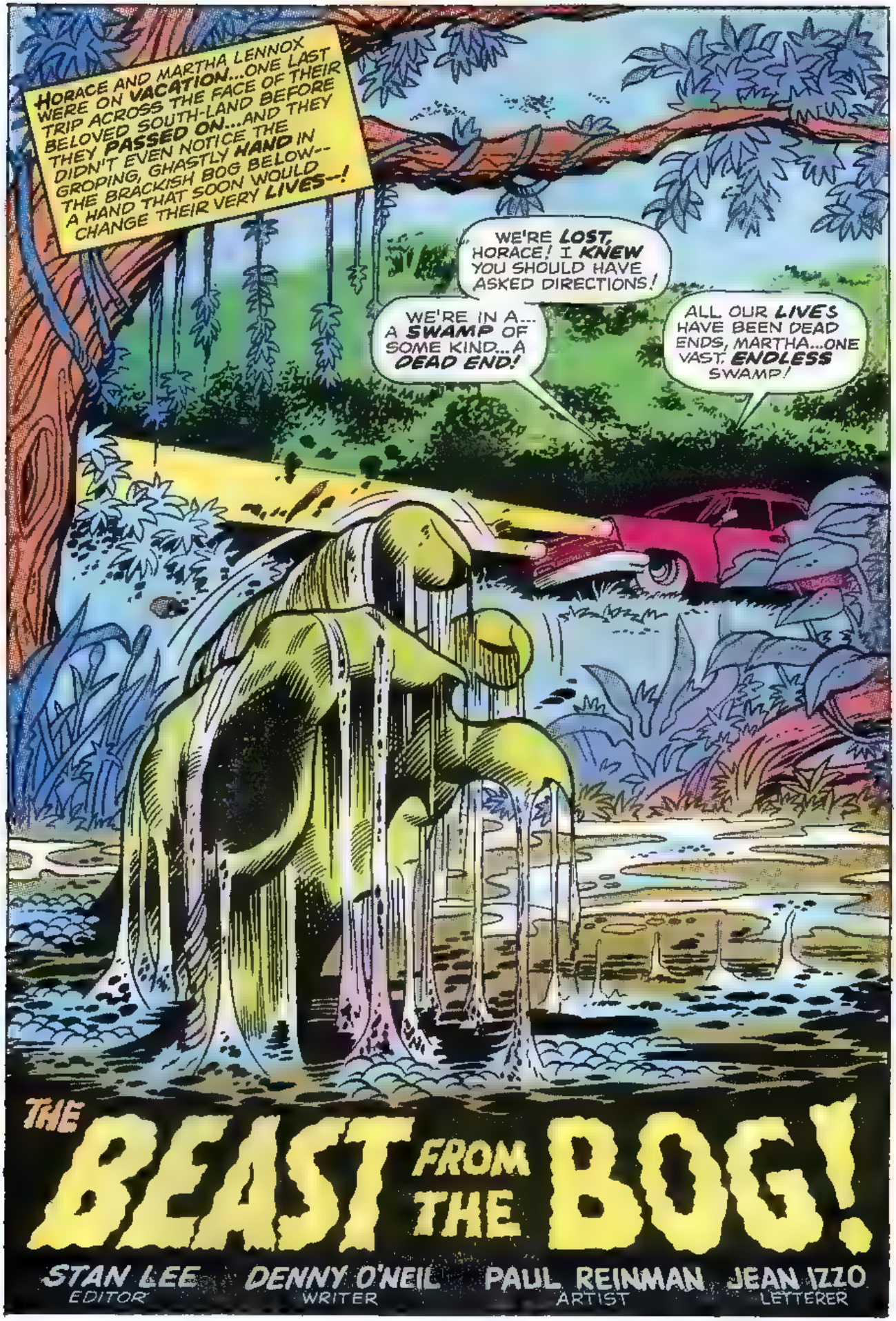
BLINDLY, I STAGGERED AWAY FROM THE WINDOW--AWAY FROM THE MAD, NIGHTMARE WORLD BEYOND THE SHUTTER--
--GROPING MY WAY TO WHERE ERICH ZANN HELD HIS HIDEOUSLY SAWING BOW--!

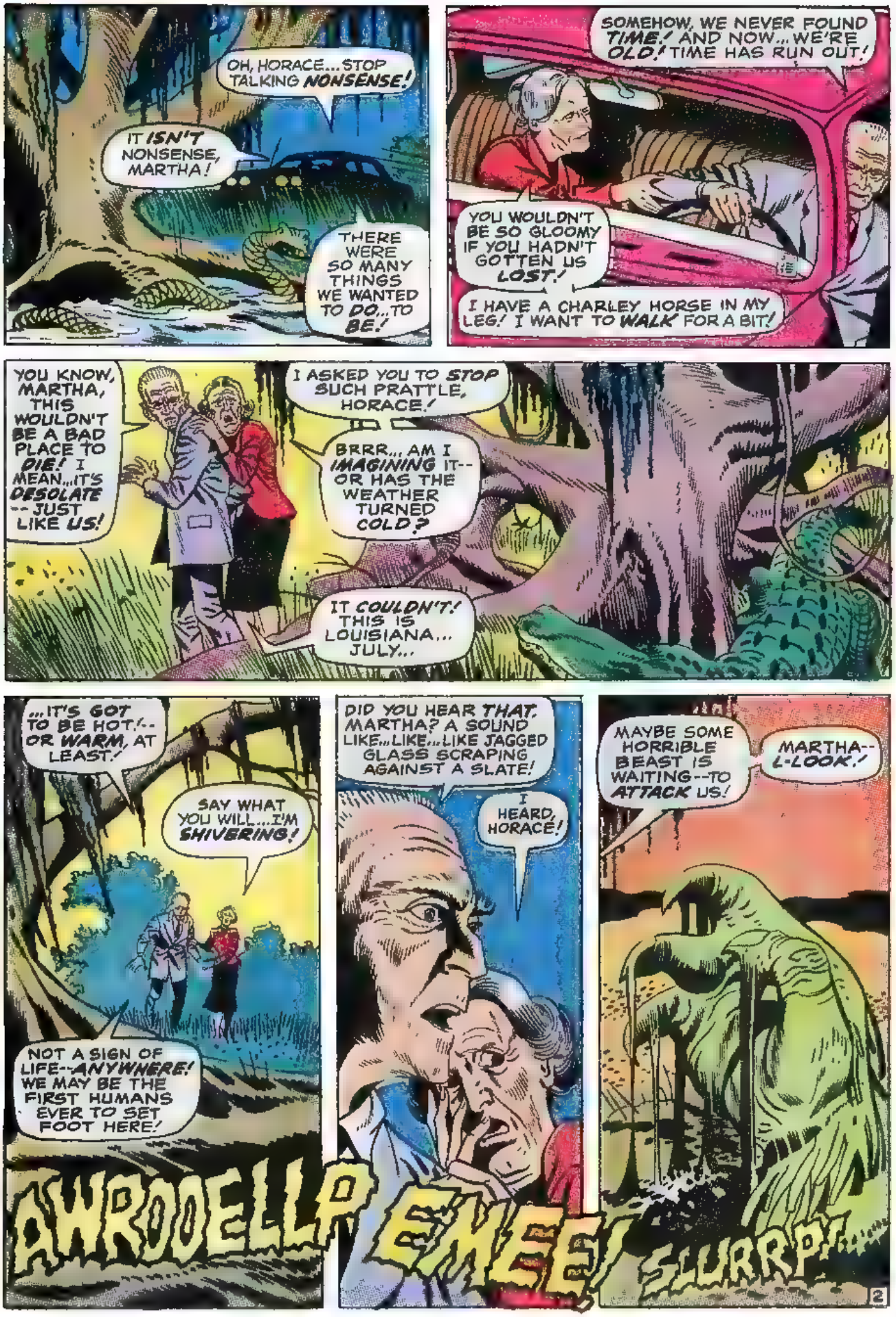

ZANN! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP PLAYING--FOR, THERE IS SOMETHING OUT THERE--SOMETHING ALIVE!
BUT--ARE YOU KEEPING IT AT BAY--OR IS YOUR PLAYING --A SUMMONS?
ZANN?


ZANN!
HE--HE'S DEAD! BUT--STILL PLAYING--STILL PLAYING!!


THEN, I RACED MINDLESSLY DOWN THE ENDLESS STAIRS--OVER COBBLES TO THE LOWER STREETS--AND ACROSS THE DARK BRIDGE INTO THE NIGHT--
AND I RECALL THAT THERE WAS NO WIND...AND THAT THE MOON WAS OUT...AND THAT ALL THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY TWINKLED!

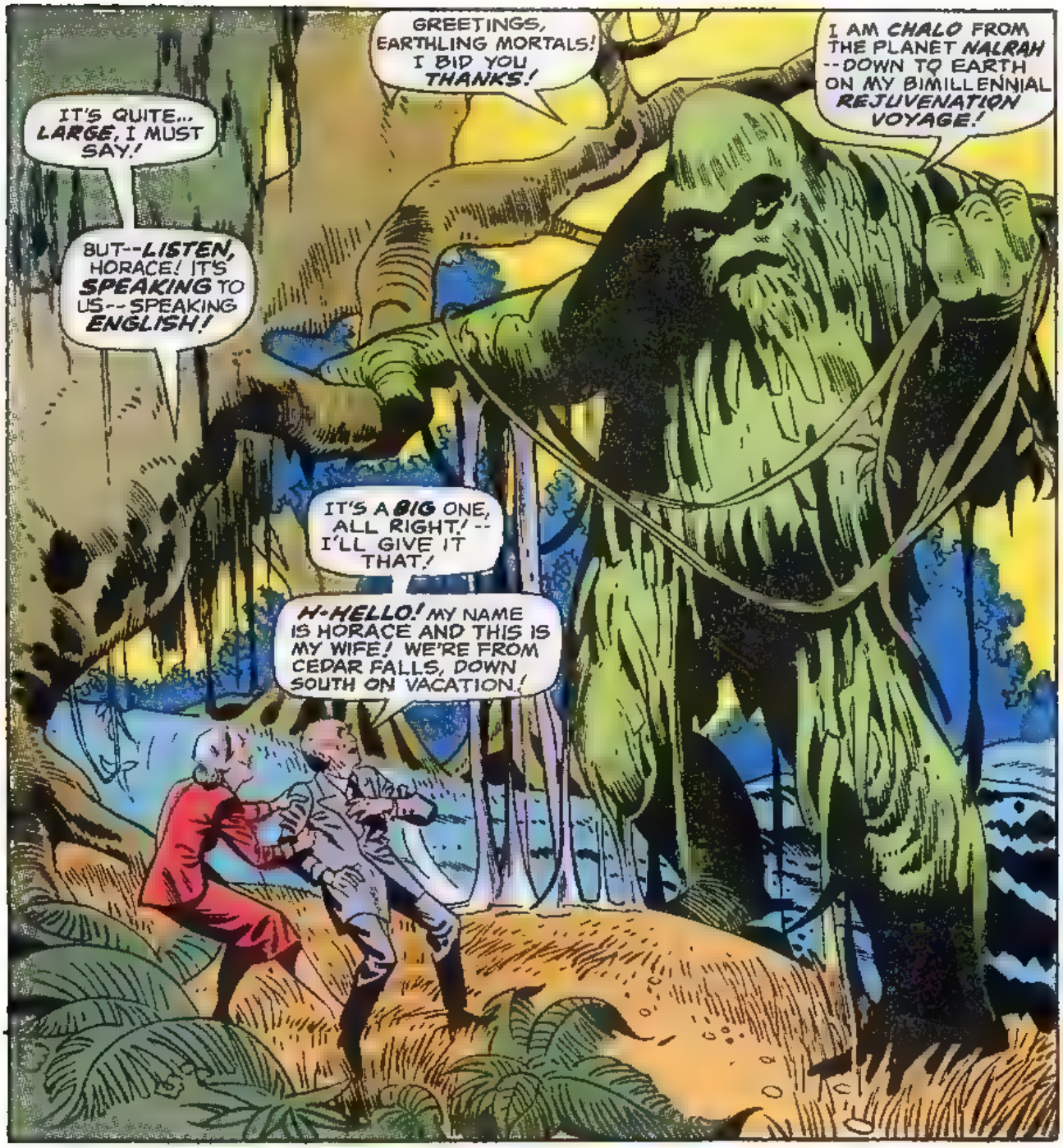
DESPITE MY MOST CAREFUL SEARCHES, I HAVE NEVER SINCE BEEN ABLE TO FIND THE RUE D'AUSEIL...BUT I AM NOT WHOLLY SORRY, EITHER FOR THIS...
...OR FOR THE LOSS, IN UNDREAMABLE ABYSSES OF DARKNESS, OF THE SCRIBBLED SHEETS WHICH ALONE COULD HAVE EXPLAINED ...THE MUSIC OF ERICH ZANN!

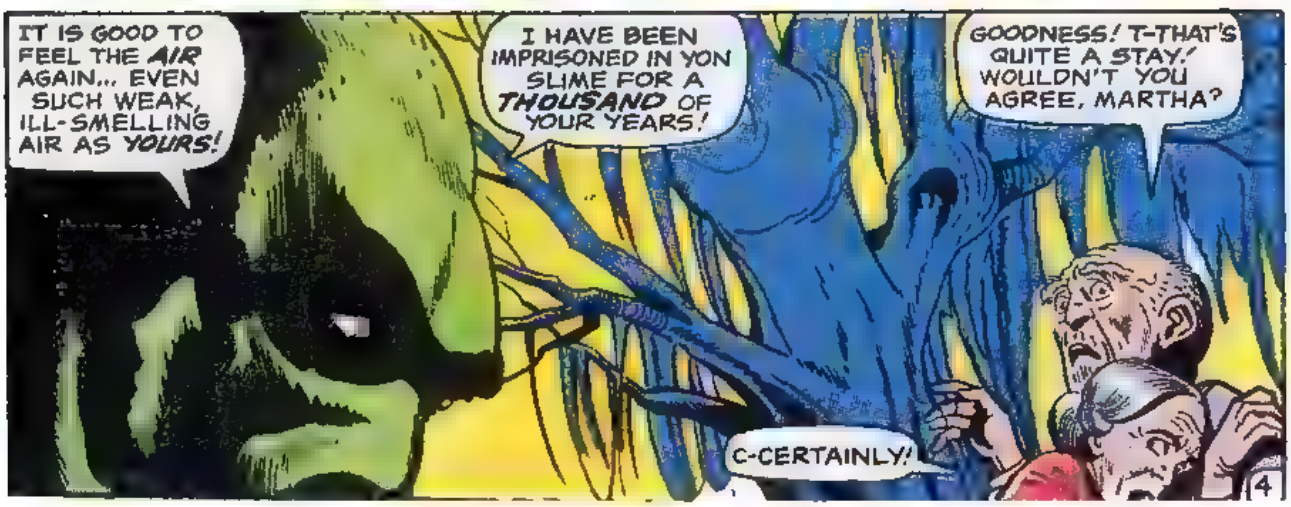

HORACE AND MARTHA LENNOX WERE ON VACATION...ONE LAST TRIP ACROSS THE FACE OF THEIR BELOVED SOUTH-LAND BEFORE THEY PASSED ON...AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE GROPING, GHASTLY HAND IN THE BRACKISH BOG BELOW--A HAND THAT SOON WOULD CHANGE THEIR VERY LIVES--!
WE'RE LOST, HORACE! I KNEW YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED DIRECTIONS!
WE'RE IN A... A SWAMP OF SOME KIND...A DEAD END!
ALL OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN DEAD ENDS, MARTHA...ONE VAST, ENDLESS SWAMP!
THE BEAST FROM THE BOG!
STAN LEE EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL WRITER
PAUL REINMAN ARTIST
JEAN IZZO LETTERER

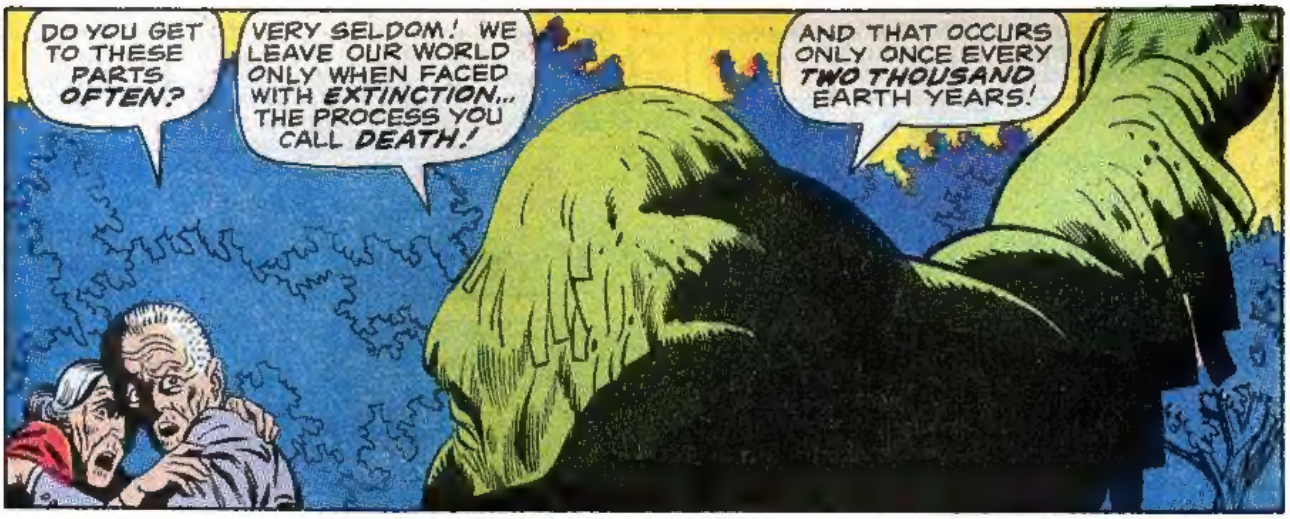

OH, HORACE... STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
IT ISN'T NONSENSE, MARTHA!
THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS WE WANTED TO DO... TO BE!
SOMEHOW, WE NEVER FOUND TIME! AND NOW... WE'RE OLD! TIME HAS RUN OUT!
YOU WOULDN'T BE SO GLOOMY IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN US LOST!
I HAVE A CHARLEY HORSE IN MY LEG! I WANT TO WALK FOR A BIT!
YOU KNOW, MARTHA, THIS WOULDN'T BE A BAD PLACE TO DIE! I MEAN... IT'S DESOLATE -- JUST LIKE US!
I ASKED YOU TO STOP SUCH PRATTLE, HORACE!
BRRR... AM I IMAGINING IT-- OR HAS THE WEATHER TURNED COLD?
IT COULDN'T! THIS IS LOUISIANA... JULY...
...IT'S GOT TO BE HOT!-- OR WARM, AT LEAST!
SAY WHAT YOU WILL... I'M SHIVERING!
NOT A SIGN OF LIFE--ANYWHERE! WE MAY BE THE FIRST HUMANS EVER TO SET FOOT HERE!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MARTHA? A SOUND LIKE... LIKE... LIKE JAGGED GLASS SCRAPING AGAINST A SLATE!
I HEARD, HORACE!
MAYBE SOME HORRIBLE BEAST IS WAITING--TO ATTACK US!
MARTHA-- L-LOOK!
AWRODELLP
EMEE!
SLURRP!
2

SOMETHING... RISING...FROM THE BOG! RUN, MARTHA!
PLEASE... NEED HELP!
MY LEG... I CAN'T RUN!
IT WANTS US TO HELP IT, HORACE! DO YOU THINK... WE SHOULD?
WE MIGHT AS WELL! I MEAN, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?!
BUT... HOW? WE DON'T HAVE ANY ROPE!
WE HAVE VINES, MARTHA! VINES WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS JOB!
HERE, WHATEVER-YOU-ARE...GRAB HOLD!
SEE, MARTHA? I TOLD YOU THEY'D DO THE TRICK!
HORACE, DEAR... I'M FRIGHTENED!
NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF! I MEAN, IF IT KILLS US, IT KILLS US--AND THAT'S THAT!
I'D RATHER DIE A... A NOVEL DEATH... THAN TO GO HOME AND JUST RUST AWAY!
SHLRRRRFF!
3

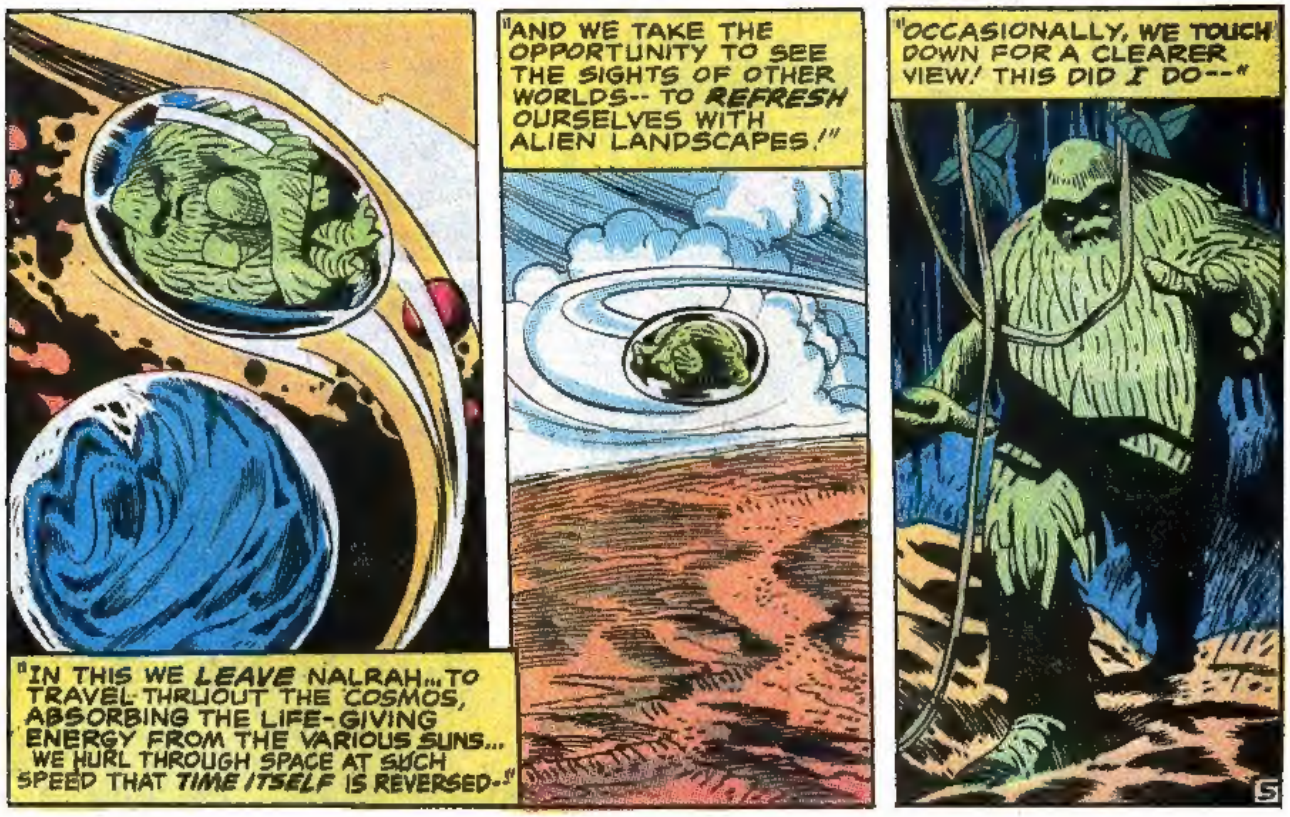
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


GREETINGS, EARTHLING MORTALS! I BID YOU THANKS!
I AM CHALO FROM THE PLANET NALRAH --DOWN TO EARTH ON MY BIMILLENNIAL REJUVENATION VOYAGE!
IT'S QUITE... LARGE, I MUST SAY!
BUT--LISTEN, HORACE! IT'S SPEAKING TO US--SPEAKING ENGLISH!
IT'S A BIG ONE, ALL RIGHT! -- I'LL GIVE IT THAT!
H-HELLO! MY NAME IS HORACE AND THIS IS MY WIFE! WE'RE FROM CEDAR FALLS, DOWN SOUTH ON VACATION!


IT IS GOOD TO FEEL THE AIR AGAIN... EVEN SUCH WEAK, ILL-SMELLING AIR AS YOURS!
I HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN YON SLIME FOR A THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS!
GOODNESS! T-THAT'S QUITE A STAY! WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MARTHA?
C-CERTAINLY!
4

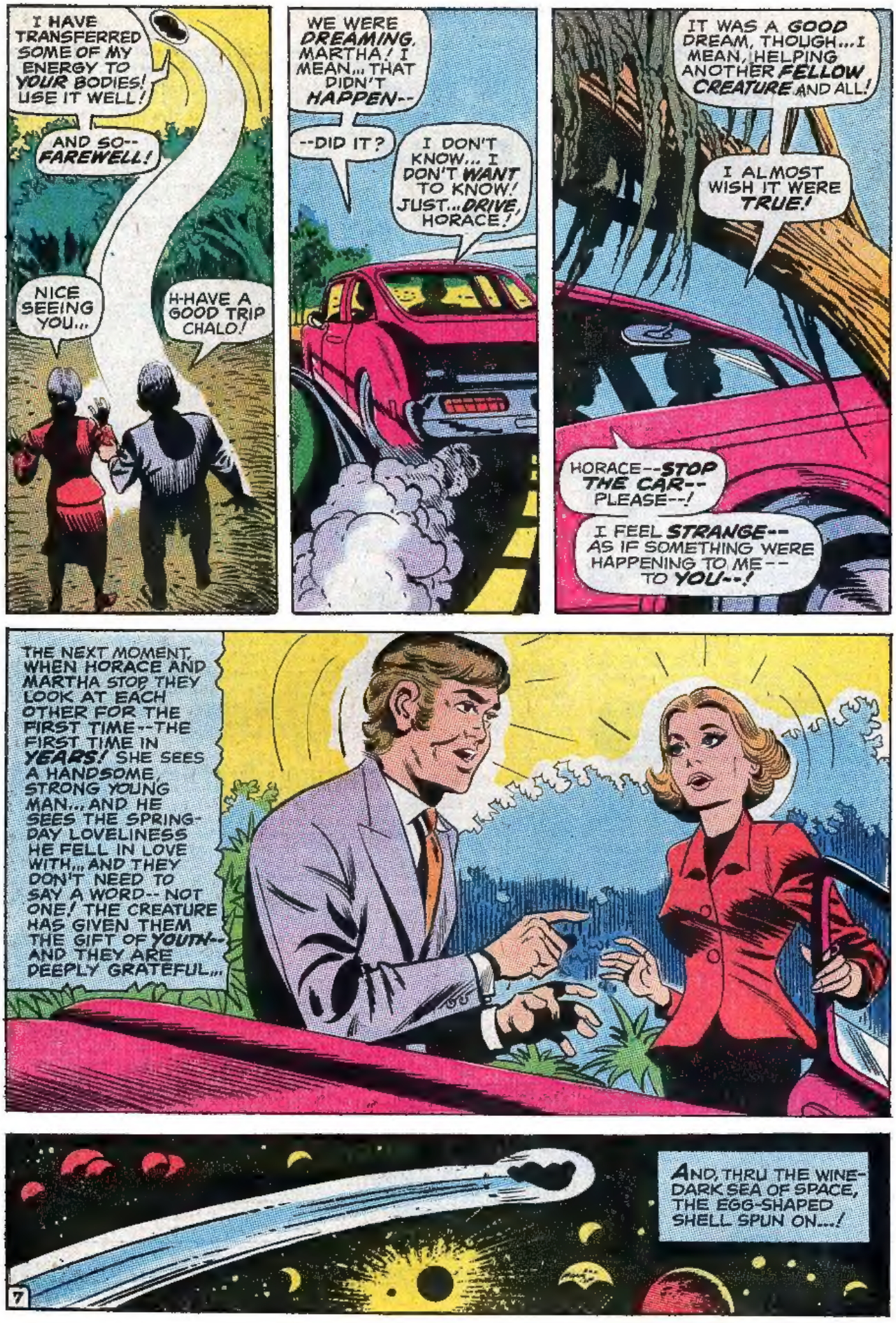

DO YOU GET TO THESE PARTS *OFTEN?*
VERY SELDOM! WE LEAVE OUR WORLD ONLY WHEN FACED WITH *EXTINCTION*... THE PROCESS YOU CALL *DEATH!*
AND THAT OCCURS ONLY ONCE EVERY *TWO THOUSAND* EARTH YEARS!

"FOR, WE ARE AN *IMMORTAL RACE!* WE HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED-- WE *WILL* ALWAYS EXIST... PROVIDED WE DO NOT NEGLECT OUR *VOYAGING!* WHEN WE SENSE OUR BODIES WITHERING... OUR SOULS GROWING STALE... OUR WILL TO SURVIVE BECOMING WEAK ... WE *VOYAGE!*"
"OUR LEADER PROVIDES US WITH A CHEMICAL POTION... WE DRINK... AND WE ARE ABLE TO SPIN AN EGG-LIKE *WOMB* FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR SKINS!"

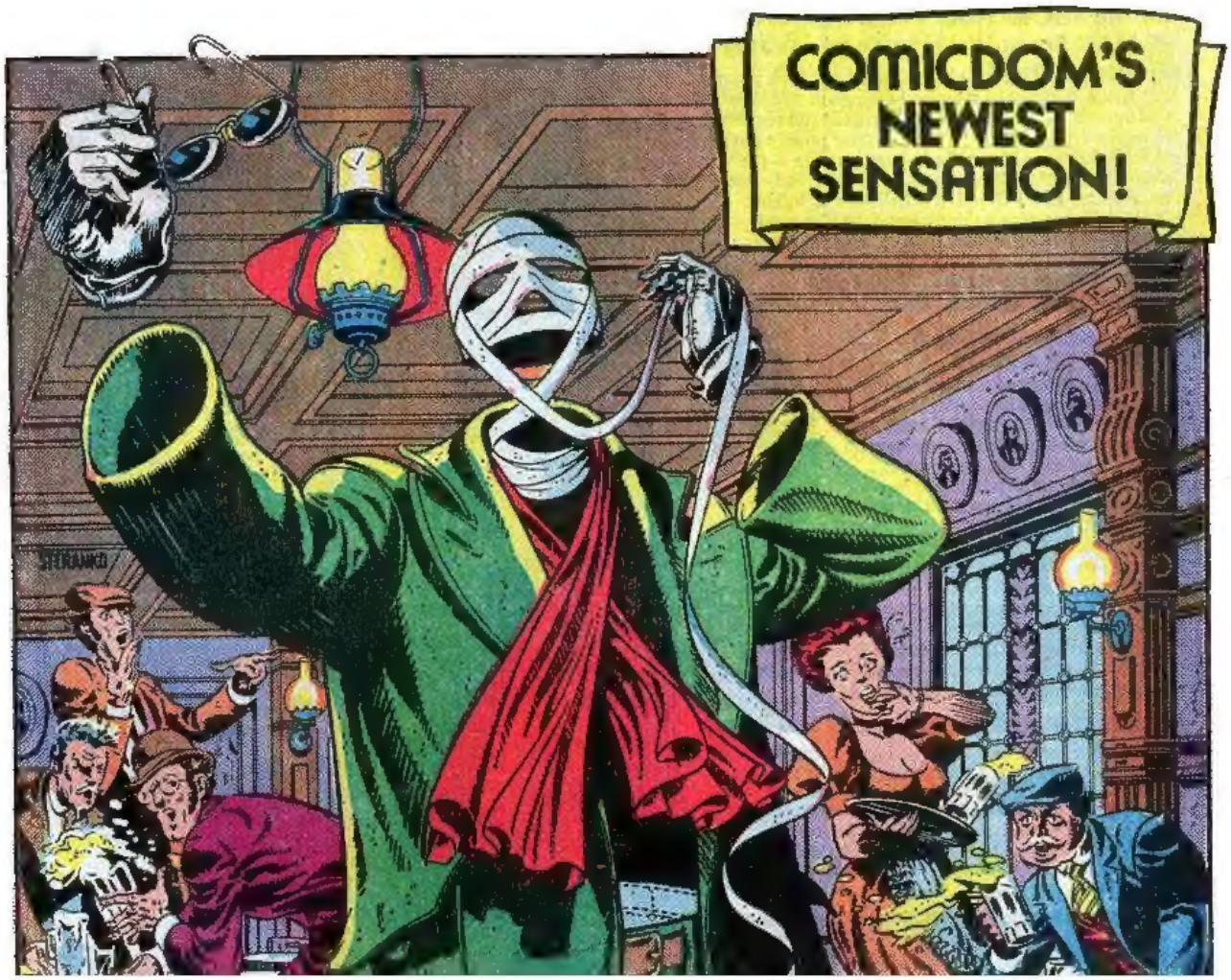

"IN THIS WE *LEAVE* NALRAH... TO TRAVEL THRUOUT THE COSMOS, ABSORBING THE LIFE-GIVING ENERGY FROM THE VARIOUS SUNS... WE HURL THROUGH SPACE AT SUCH SPEED THAT *TIME ITSELF* IS REVERSED-!"
"AND WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE SIGHTS OF OTHER WORLDS-- TO *REFRESH* OURSELVES WITH ALIEN LANDSCAPES!"
"OCCASIONALLY, WE TOUCH DOWN FOR A CLEARER VIEW! THIS DID *I* DO--"
5

"I PLACED MY FOOT UPON WHAT APPEARED TO BE SOLID SOIL! HOWEVER, IT WAS BUT A THIN CRUST OF SAND--"
"--IT CRUMBLED BENEATH MY WEIGHT AND I FOUND MYSELF SINKING HELPLESSLY INTO THE SWAMP BENEATH! MY STRUGGLES AVAILED ME NOTHING THOUGH MY ACCUMULATED ENERGY KEPT ME ALIVE. I COULD NOT CLIMB FREE..."
AND--YOU'VE BEEN TRAPPED HERE--FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?
I'M GLAD WE COULD LEND A HAND!
AS AM I, EARTHLINGS! IT IS FOR ME TO NOW CONTINUE MY TRAVELS...
--TO RETURN, TO NALRAH!
AHHH... THE WOMB FORMS EFFORTLESSLY!
GLORY BE! SEE WHAT HE'S DOING, MARTHA?
IT'S COMING STRAIGHT OUT OF HIS HIDE!
ERE I LEAVE, I SHALL REWARD YOU--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


I HAVE TRANSFERRED SOME OF MY ENERGY TO YOUR BODIES! USE IT WELL!
AND SO-- FAREWELL!
NICE SEEING YOU...
H-HAVE A GOOD TRIP CHALO!
WE WERE DREAMING, MARTHA! I MEAN... THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN--
--DID IT?
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T WANT TO KNOW! JUST... DRIVE, HORACE!
IT WAS A GOOD DREAM, THOUGH... I MEAN, HELPING ANOTHER FELLOW CREATURE AND ALL!
I ALMOST WISH IT WERE TRUE!
HORACE--STOP THE CAR-- PLEASE--!
I FEEL STRANGE-- AS IF SOMETHING WERE HAPPENING TO ME-- TO YOU--!
THE NEXT MOMENT, WHEN HORACE AND MARTHA STOP THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME--THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS! SHE SEES A HANDSOME, STRONG YOUNG MAN... AND HE SEES THE SPRING-DAY LOVELINESS HE FELL IN LOVE WITH... AND THEY DON'T NEED TO SAY A WORD-- NOT ONE! THE CREATURE HAS GIVEN THEM THE GIFT OF YOUTH-- AND THEY ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL...
AND, THRU THE WINE-DARK SEA OF SPACE, THE EGG-SHAPED SHELL SPUN ON...!
7

Scanned, Cleaned and Saved



READ and ENJOY

CAVELORD E-COMICS

cavelord@hotmail.com

2006

All comics owned and saved for prosperity